Levy on vessels at ports

1329. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various ports in the country are allowing fishing vessels to operate as supply vessels for oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the port authorities treat these vessels as fishing vessels for the purpose of berthing charges;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to levy a uniform rate for all fishing vessels and not treat these vessels as supply vessels and levy higher charges; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to help small vessel owners to compete with large supply vessels?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Fishing vessels are registered under Section 435 of Merchant Shipping Act. These vessels are used solely for fishing and their use for any other purpose is not contemplated under the said Act. As per available information, the Major Ports do not permit fishing vessels to operate as supply vessels for oil companies.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Toll tax on Banas bridge

†1330. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan have urged the Central Government to stop realization of toll tax on Banas bridge;

(b) whether Department of law of Central Government has given its consent to stop collection of toll tax on this bridge;

(c) if so, the time by when this toll tax collection would be stopped; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. However, only toll/user fee (not toll tax) is being collected.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.